

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining the presence of a signal output from a wireless communications device, comprising:

receiving a received signal by signal determining circuitry from a wireless

5 communications device;

analyzing said received signal related to determining whether said received signal comprises at least a first predetermined signal that includes an audible frequency.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said audible frequency comprises at least one of a ring signal, a voice signal, a dial tone, and a key press signal.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said audible frequency comprises a signal having a frequency that is within the range of human hearing.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising interconnecting said wireless communications device to said signal determining circuitry using a holding member of a first type if said wireless communications device is of a first type, wherein said holding member of a first type is adapted to interconnect to a wireless communications device

5 having at least a first set of physical characteristics, and wherein said holding member of a first type is incapable of interconnecting to a wireless communications device of a second type having a second set of physical characteristics.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising using said received signal to control an audio system if said received signal includes said first predetermined signal

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein if said received signal is determined to comprise at least a first predetermined signal that includes an audible frequency, said method further comprises:

generating a second signal; and

providing said second signal to an audio system.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of analyzing said received signal comprises determining whether said received signal includes predetermined audible frequencies.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said generating step comprises asserting an audio mute signal to control at least a first input to said audio system.

9. The method of Claim 6, wherein said generating step comprises asserting an audio mute signal to reduce an amplitude of at least a first input to at least a first speaker of said audio system.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said wireless communications device is a portable cellular telephone.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising at least one of filtering, amplifying and squaring said received signal.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising changing to an in-call mode when said received signal includes said first predetermined signal and determining that said wireless communications device is in use if an in-call status signal is received from said wireless communications device.

13. The method of Claim 12, further including detecting that said in-call status signal is not present and controlling an audio system after said detecting step.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first predetermined signal includes a voice signal and said voice signal is continuously checked and, when said voice signal is not present for a predetermined time interval, controlling an audio system.

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15. An apparatus for determining the presence of a signal output from a wireless communications device to control an audio system, comprising:

determining circuitry for receiving a received signal from the wireless communications device and processing said received signal to provide an output signal, said received signal including an audible signal; and

control circuitry in operative communication with said determining circuitry that receives said output signal and generates a control signal to control an audio system located in a vehicle.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said audible signal includes at least one of a ring signal, a voice signal, a dial tone and a key press signal.

17. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said determining circuitry and said control circuitry are supported by a holding member of a first type and in which said holding member of said first type is compatible with a wireless communications device of a first type and is not compatible with a wireless communications device of a second type.

18. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said control signal is used to at least attenuate a signal from the audio system in the vehicle.

19. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said determining circuitry is used in at least one of filtering, amplifying and squaring said received signal.

20. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said determining circuitry is operatively associated with in-call status circuitry and in which said control signal is generated when at least one of a first predetermined signal and a signal provided by said in-call status circuitry is present.

21. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said first predetermined signal includes a voice signal and said control signal is present when said voice signal is continuously present.

22. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein:
said voice signal is continuously present when said voice signal is absent for less than 5 seconds.

23. A method for detecting audio signals from a wireless communications device,
comprising:

receiving at a docking station at least a first signal from a wireless communications
device;

processing said at least a first signal; and

analyzing said at least a first signal, wherein in response to determining that said at
least a first signal contains at least a first audible frequency, an in-call mode is entered.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein said at least a first audible frequency
comprises at least one of a ring signal, a voice signal, a dial tone and a key press signal.

25. The method of Claim 23, wherein said docking station comprises an adaptor.

26. The method of Claim 23, wherein said in-call mode comprises generating an
audio system control signal.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein said in-call mode is maintained for at least a
first period of time after it has been entered.

28. The method of Claim 27, further comprising:

receiving at said docking station at least a second signal from at least a one of said
wireless communications device and a user;

processing said signal; and

analyzing said at least a second signal, wherein in response to determining that said
at least a second signal contains at least a first audible frequency said first period of time is
reset.